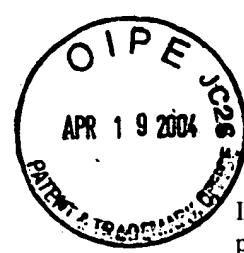
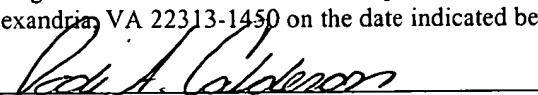


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.



Jodi A. Calderon

Date 4-15-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:	Don Vaughan et al	Art Unit:	3753
Serial No.	09/998,060	Examiner:	Stephen M. Hepperle
Filed:	November 30, 2001	Confirmation No.:	5496
For:	<i>Quiet Flow Control Washer for Water Softener or the Like</i>		
Attorney Docket:	31.043	Customer No.:	23598

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

APR 23 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.